Connecting joint forest management committees with forest development authority

†2942. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating on connecting all joint forest management committees with forest development authority under National Afforestation Programme; and

(b) if so, by when the same would be implemented for organisational development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. A new component, namely "Strengthening of Joint Forest Management (JFM)", has already been added in the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) with a view to constituting Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) in all forest-fringe villages and to formulate micro-plan for each JFMC.

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has invited proposals from all States and Union Territories for financial assistance under NAP. The proposals will be approved subject to their technical and administrative suitability and availability of funds.

Ozone layer

†2943. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing hole in the ozone layer over Antarctic region has become wide enough this year as a result thereof the pollution preventing measures which were going on for the last twenty years, proved ineffective and whether there are possibilities of further widening of the hole;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ozone layer is becoming thinner day by day;

(c) whether this hole in the ozone layer has spread over the Usuhiya in Pentagon region of southern Argentina and as a result thereof ultraviolet radiation is increasing over the earth; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.